

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01268 090838Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-03 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01
PRS-01 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OIC-02
SP-02 PA-01 FBIE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2596
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP PP

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER SOMARE REQUESTS APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT

REF: PORT MORESBY 1266

1. DFAT DEPUTY SECRETARY BEN SABUMEI, ON BEHALF OF PRIME MINISTER, HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR PRIME MINISTER SOMARE TO CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER ON OCTOBER 10. PRIME MINISTER HEAD PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S DELEGATION TO UNGA, AND WOULD PLAN TO STOP IN WASHINGTON ON OCT 10 EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK. I HAVE TENTATIVE APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ON SEPT 13 AND EXPECT SUBJECT WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSED.

2. SABUMEI SAID PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO MAKE BRIEF CALL TO DISCUSS REGIONAL MATTERS AND THE TROWING IMPORTANCE AND UNITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC AREA. HE WOULD EXPECT TO REAFFIRM PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S COMMITMENT TO THE UN AND TO COUNTRIES (SUCH AS US) THAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE TRADITIONAL FRIENDS. MEETING WOULD PROVIDE PRESIDENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF TTPI AND US INTEREST IN GUAM WITH THIS NEIGHBORING WEST PACIFIC LEADER.

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3. UNDER SECRETARY HABID AND OTHERS MET PRIME MINISTER TWO YEARS AGO IN WASHINGTON AND HABIB MET HIM AGAIN DURING VISIT TO PORT MORESBY IN 1976.

4. COMMENT: GPNG HAS BEEN VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND ADMIRATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER IS OBVIOUSLY

ONE OF REASONS PRIME MINISTER SOMARE WANTS TO MEET HIM.

5. PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS A NEWLY INDEPENDENT THIRD WORLD COUNTRY WHICH HAS DEMONSTRATED STABILITY AND MODERATION DURING ITS TWO YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. IT ASPIRES TO A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY, AND RECENTLY HOSTED THE 12-NATION SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING WHICH AGREED ON THE EXTENSION OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE BY SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS. IT WANTS THE PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS TO PLAY A MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE UN, AND IS URGING THAT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM NATIONS JOINTLY ESTABLISH AN OFFICE AT THE UN WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND POLICY COORDINATION FOR PACIFIC ISLAND MEMBERS OF UN. GPNG HOPES THIS WOULD LEAD SEVEN OR EIGHT PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES TO ATTEND UNGA AND VOTE ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST, THUS PROVIDING MORE INFLUENCE THAN ANY ONE COULD HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

6. RECOMMENDATION: I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISPLAY FRIENDLY INTEREST IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AS EMERGING THIRD WORLD COUNTRY AND KEEP IT ON PATH OF STABILITY AND MODERATION. FURTHER, MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WOULD DEMONSTRATE ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN PACIFIC BASIN. MEETING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION OF FUTURE OF TTPI AND INCREASE POSSIBILITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S SUPPORT AMONG PACIFIC NATIONS FOR US POSTURE IN TTPI AND GUAM. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER RECEIVE PRIME MINISTER SOMARE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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